



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Minutes of the Human Relations Committee**

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

1:45 PM

**Cook County Building, Board Room
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Deer, Morrison, Anaya, Johnson, Miller, Sims and Suffredin (7)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chairman Deer asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code.

1. George Blakemore - Concerned Citizen
2. Elvira Arellano - Familla Latina Unida
3. Antonio Mohamed - Concerned Citizen
4. Cecilla Garcia - Familla Latina Unida
5. Mahalea Velasco - Familla Latina Unida
6. Bladimir Caballero - Familla Latina Unida
7. Luis Rafael - Familla Latina Unida
8. Gustavo Salmeron - Familla Latina Unida
9. Carlos Luna - Familla Latina Unida
10. Rev. Walter Coleman - Lincoln UMC

11. Sara Nieves - Familia Latina Unida

12. Mike Flournoy - Concerned Citizen

13. Mark Armstrong - Chicago Urban of Fine Arts Commonwealth

[19-2320](#)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 02/19/2019

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Suffredin, to approve 19-2320. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Deer, Morrison, Anaya, Johnson, Miller, Sims and Suffredin (7)

[19-1971](#)

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), DENNIS DEER, BRANDON JOHNSON, DONNA MILLER, KEVIN B. MORRISON, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THE DEPORTATION OF RECIPIENTS OF DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) AND TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) TO STABILIZE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF IMPACTED YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, the separation of children from their parents is a violation of the human rights; and

WHEREAS, the rights of children should be protected so that they stay with their families; this is a core value of the democratic ideals of this country; and

WHEREAS, the current situation is forcing many U.S. citizen children to leave their communities and struggle to begin anew in their parents' countries of origin. Often, they are placed in situations in which their rights as U.S. citizens are denied as well as their universal rights as children; and

WHEREAS, the five million U.S. citizen children and two million children brought to this nation as infants, and raised here among U.S. citizens, should not be deprived of the sacred right to family and parental guidance and support upon unnecessary separation; and

WHEREAS, President Obama issued executive orders which provided the deferral of deportation and the provision of work authorization for undocumented individuals brought to this country as minors and further established the practice of prosecutorial discretion to defer deportations until the Congress could arrive at a permanent solution; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the continuing threat of injustice to children, the current administration has cancelled those practices without Congress having established any alternative; and

WHEREAS, these provisions represented a just and much needed temporary relief and should be maintained by act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the children of those undocumented individuals are being forced every day to endure the unimaginable pain and damage of family separation or deportation; and

WHEREAS, parents with U.S. citizen children who were given protected status through prosecutorial discretion and who reported regularly to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as they were required were among the first to be deported under this administration; and

WHEREAS, there has been a 250% increase over the last year in deportations of those with no criminal records, most of which have families and children, with the likelihood that these numbers will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, at least 325,000 Salvadorans, Nicaraguans, Hondurans, and Haitians have lived in this country for many years and have established families with 273,000 U.S. born citizen children, as well as other children brought here at an early age who have known no other country, now face the cancellation of TPS and are being deported; and

WHEREAS, the psychological, educational, health, and economic effects of separation from their parents have long-term effects on a child's quality-of-life.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Board President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners resolve this day that Congress should pass legislation that provides the right to visas for the undocumented parents of U.S. citizen children or DACA eligible children, and of TPS-recipient parents with U.S. citizen children or DACA-eligible children; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that these Visas should be renewable every three years on proof of the continued verification of the original conditions of issue; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners urge our congressional

representatives to pass such legislation with all deliberate speed to immediately stop this violation of the human rights of children and their rights as U.S. citizens.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Vice Chairman Morrison, to recommend for approval 19-1971. The motion carried by the following vote:

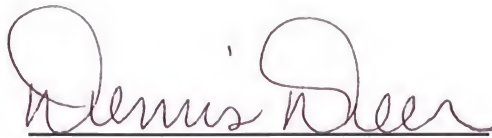
Ayes: Deer, Morrison, Anaya, Johnson, Miller, Sims and Suffredin (7)

ADJOURNMENT

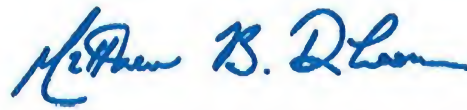
A motion was made by Vice Chairman Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Deer, Morrison, Anaya, Johnson, Miller, Sims and Suffredin (7)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman



Secretary

A video recording of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>.